

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh.

Mr. FERGUSON: Hon. members on the government benches should remember that people in the visitors' gallery of this house do not come here to hear them laugh and treat lightly the expenditure of \$2 million of their money.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Carried.

Mr. McLURE: No; it is not carried.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: Let us build the ferry or the tunnel or whatever they want, and get on with the business of the house.

Mr. LENNARD: If you are going to adopt that attitude we won't wind up as soon as you and I might want to.

Mr. McLURE: The government is asking this committee to make an investment in a kind of crown corporation. In other words, it is asking this committee to give dictatorial powers to a corporation in order that it may eventually push private enterprise in radio out into the deep. I was not a member of the radio committee, but I had the privilege of reading the evidence produced before that committee. Now, in this item presented to this committee we have this government anxious to put this vote through the house in the dying days of the session, and without due consideration.

In this item the government want to lend to or invest with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation \$2 million, to give the C.B.C. the most high-handed power that can be given to any company, namely to have an exclusive monopoly of broadcasting.

The introduction of the item before the committee shows plainly that the government is lavishly buying its way into socialism, and doing so with the taxpayers' money. The Canadian people have little conception of the extent to which this government used the radio to mould public opinion during the last seven years. During that time they had a stranglehold on this great medium of propaganda. I admit that there is a definite place in this country for a national system of broadcasting.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: What are you quoting from?

Mr. McLURE: If the hon. member would only stand up and look at himself he would not have very much to say.

Mr. CRUICKSHANK: You don't know him.

Mr. McLURE: But there is also a definite place for the privately owned station. In a country such as ours, a country of freedom of

speech, it would not be well to have our air channels entirely taken over by a government radio monopoly. Canada's well-being and enterprises spring from the private enterprise system and not from bureaucratic fiddlers. Instead of improving by assisting our present system of broadcasting, the government proposes to unloose further hoards of business-baiting bureaucrats who stifle rather than assist the efforts of thrifty and industrious citizens to improve the material well-being of Canada.

In the light of demonstrated records of failure of experiments in this country in the direction of the totalitarian procedure, it is to be hoped that this committee will insist on a restoration of the people's own freedom of action and the right of private enterprise to get the green light. In my opinion it would be much better to grant some ray of hope to that hard-working group of patriotic citizens who comprise the membership of the Canadian association of broadcasters from coast to coast. I understand that the Canadian association of broadcasters this year asked for a simple amendment to the Canadian Broadcasting Act of 1936, namely, for an appeal court before which they could appear when they might have any grievance against the rulings of their big government competitor, the C.B.C. This was flatly refused.

There is much more I should like to bring before the committee with regard to this item, but I am not going to delay the committee. Let me say that the whole situation is so ridiculous that I cannot comprehend that this committee, supposedly representing the people of a democratic country, will concur in the vote; therefore I am opposed to it.

Amendment (Mr. Ross, St. Paul's) negatived.

Item agreed to, on division.

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL HEALTH AND WELFARE  
General—National film board, including the motion picture bureau—

246. Production and distribution of films and other visual materials, \$860,000.

Mr. MACDONNELL (Muskoka-Ontario): I wish to make one comment on this item. I am in favour of this vote; I am in favour of the film board; I am in favour of the work they do. I want to make this request, that the department should seriously consider whether the film board cannot be made a much more self-sustaining organization; whether it cannot get its affairs on a much more businesslike basis, and whether when they come back a year from now with an item in next year's estimates it cannot have been advanced a considerable extent.